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Money

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Justice Barak receives telephone death threats

"YOU will rot next to Rabin's grave, then you'll understand," a man said in a recent late night call to Supreme Court President Aharon Barak's home, Channel 2 reported last night.

The General Security Service has ordered renovations at Barak's home to increase security and have stepped up round-the-clock protection of the justice.

Last night Sephardi chief rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron visited Barak in his home to offer support. Meanwhile, Deputy Religious Affairs Ministers Aryeh Gamiel (Shas) and Yigal Bibi (National Religious Party) criticized Barak, with Bibi saying: "There are justices in the Supreme Court who dispute the stands taken by Aharon Barak."

During a visit to Rachel's Tomb, Bibi said it is time to stop saying that observant Jews are attacking the Supreme Court. "A good number of the Supreme Court justices say that Aharon Barak's ideas regarding the judicial concept of expanding the court's authority are mistaken. We lend our support to the justices who say Aharon Barak went too far."

He added that the make-up of the court no longer reflects the views of the public, and personnel changes should be made.

Gamiel said Barak "oversteps the law's limitations and gives himself wide-ranging authority beyond what is written in the law."

But Former Supreme Court Justice Haim Cohn said that "all these attacks are unfounded. It's simply a lie to say that Supreme Court justices are prejudiced against haredim. Every judge is qualified to conduct a fair trial according to the law. He or she does not rule based on whether he loves or hates haredim, if he does [have such feelings]."

Cohn asked to pass a "message to all those haredim who besmirch the Supreme Court: I want to tell you that outstanding justices and justices like those in the Supreme Court are justices any enlightened state, and especially a Jewish state, can be proud of. We're fortunate to have such justices."

Related stories, Page 3

Syria prepared to resume peace talks

ELDAD BECK and news agencies

SYRIA is ready to resume peace talks with Israel in Washington from the point at which they broke off in March, Foreign Minister Farouk Shara said yesterday.

Shara said some progress had been made in talks with the Pines government regarding security arrangements and the principle of land for peace.

"There are points which were not agreed upon, and there are points which were agreed upon, and the US, as a sponsor of the talks, knows what was agreed upon and what was not agreed upon," he said.

"The talks should not start from point zero. We said that Syria is ready to resume the talks from the point where they stopped," he told reporters at Damascus airport, as Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa ended a trip to Syria. Shara said talks should "start from the point where peace negotiations stopped last February."

"Syria will never resume negotiations from point zero to spend another five or 10 years on negotiations," Shara stressed.

"We welcome this kind of announcement because it shows a willingness to return to the talks, and we hope they agree to do so without pre-conditions," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's communications director David Bar-Ilan said last night in response to Shara's statement.

Israel Radio reported last night that US Senator Arlen Specter met yesterday with Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy and then flew to Damascus for talks with Syrian President Hafez Assad.

Moussa said he had good talks with President Hafez Assad and that Syria is ready to resume negotiations with Israel within the framework of UN resolutions and the land-for-

peace principle.

"Since there was progress in some spheres it is important to take that position and build on it, not to start from the beginning. Syria's readiness to resume the peace talks comes within this context," Moussa said.

"I can convey to you Syria's full determination to march on the way of peace within the framework of commitments and principles which were agreed upon."

Meanwhile, Netanyahu's diplomatic adviser Dore Gold warned that relations between Israel and Egypt should not be taken for granted, adding that real meaning should be given to ties between the countries.

"It is important to understand that relations between Israel and Egypt are relations which no one should take for granted. They are relations that we invest in, which we hope to develop, and we hope not just to have ceremonies or balloons, but to have real meaning in the development of our relations and our mutual understanding," Gold said in Paris after meeting with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak's diplomatic adviser Osama Baz.

After meeting with Baz in the morning for 90 minutes, Gold said that he reviewed general developments in the Middle East with him, without any connection to any recent event, but admitted that the Syrian issue was raised.

Baz said he is awaiting further information concerning the reports on Syrian troops movement in the area of Mt. Hermon, but he estimated that if the reports are confirmed, the Syrians were just maneuvering and not seeking any military escalation.

The Arab daily *Al-Hayat*, published in Paris, reported that Moussa had flown to Damascus to directly inform the Syrian leadership about the results of the Paris talks. This report suggests that Baz tried to reduce tension between Jerusalem and Damascus, and to avoid any misunderstanding that might provoke a crisis.

Baz told journalists that the Paris talks did not concentrate on the Cairo economic summit, scheduled for November, which Mubarak threatened to cancel because of Israeli positions on the future of the peace process.

"The main subject is how to move on with the peace process, since at present there is no progress whatsoever," he said.

Gold tried to reduce expectations, stating the talks were part of a regular dialogue between Israel and Egypt, which will permit both sides to deepen their mutual understanding and to work together to advance in the peace process. Gold added that in the framework of that dialogue, Foreign Minister David Levy will visit Egypt next week for talks with the Egyptian leadership.



A municipality demolition crew finishes razing an illegally built center for the disabled in eastern Jerusalem yesterday.

Palestinians protest demolition of illegally built club for disabled

Arafat summons foreign diplomats to express his concern

BILL HUTMAN

YESTERDAY'S demolition by the Jerusalem Municipality of an illegally constructed Palestinian club for the disabled in the Old City sparked sharp reaction from Palestinian leaders, who decried the move as a blow to Palestinian-Israeli relations.

"I can't understand the thinking behind such action," said Palestinian Council member Ziad Abu Ziyad, at an impromptu press conference called by local Palestinian leaders near the spot of the demolition, just inside Herod's Gate.

"This is not the kind of action that is good for peace, that is good for relations [between Israelis and Palestinians]," Ziyad said.

Palestinian leaders called for a two-hour afternoon commercial strike to protest the demolition, but store-owners ignored the call and remained open.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat summoned foreign diplomats to convey what the Palestinian news agency Wafa said was his deep concern over Israel's practices in Jerusalem.

"These attempts and measures are a part of a premeditated policy to Judaize Arab Jerusalem, to empty its inhabitants and to encourage settlement building inside Jerusalem's neighborhoods," Wafa quoted Arafat as saying.

Palestinian cabinet members Hanan Ashrawi and Hassan Tahboub and Legislative Council Speaker Ahmed Qreia led a march of about 100 people from the demolition site through the Old City.

Witnesses said a police helicopter hovered overhead before dawn, as a city demolition crew tore down the single-floor, 130 sq. m. structure. Dozens of policemen also stood watch, but the demolition passed without incident.

The narrow Old City gate was too small for a tractor to pass through, forcing the city demolition crew to use a crane to lift the tractor over the Old City wall, according to witnesses.

Palestinian sources identified the building as a day care center for the disabled, run by the Bourges Luc Society, a non-governmental organization, and said it was built four years ago, and has been in use.

City officials, however, said the building is new and not yet in use. They said there was no political motivation behind the demolition, as the Palestinians charged, and that the action was routine with regards to illegal construction.

The Municipality had twice put up notices on the building, warning that demolition was imminent because it was built in an area off-limits for development, the officials said.

The police spokesman said the building was constructed with PA funds. City officials said the PA connection was what particularly sparked the anger of the city's Palestinian leaders.

Mayor Ehud Olmert signed the demolition order on August 1, according to the officials.

"The fact that the Jerusalem Municipality provides very few public services for Palestinians makes this demolition particularly demonstrative of the strength of the campaign against Arab residents of the city," the Jerusalem-based Palestinian Society for the Protection of Human Rights and Environment said in a statement.

Olmert House, the PLO headquarters in Jerusalem, released a statement strongly condemning the demolition, and called for "the international community and the Arab world to put pressure on Israel to stop such acts in the future."

"We regret such policies, because they are destroying the peace process ... and showing that the Israeli government is straying further and further away from the peace process," the statement said.

Police recommend charging 16 soccer players in illegal betting scam

Year-long investigation completed; no basketball players being charged

BILL HUTMAN

SOME 48 suspects, including 19 soccer players and officials, face charges as police wrap up a year-long investigation into allegations of widespread illegal betting in the nation's professional sports world.

"The investigation is for the most part complete, but that doesn't mean that we don't have to still keep a close watch on things," said

Cmdr. Yossi Levy, head of Police Investigations, after meeting officials of the Israel Football Association and Israel Basketball Association yesterday, to report to them on the findings of the inquiry.

Levy presented the names of the players and managers to Ya'acov Erel, general manager of the IFA. The list included 16 soccer players and 3 officials.

Erel told reporters he would consult with the IFA's legal advisers to determine what action should be taken against the players and officials. He, and police, declined to

release their names, on grounds they had yet to be charged.

In a statement released after the meeting, police said that no basketball players were being charged, and that original suspicions that the soccer players and officials were betting on games in which they were involved were discovered to be unfounded.

But a multi-million shekel illegal betting operation was uncovered, according to police. Most of the suspects police want charged were the organizers of the operation,

and not players, police said.

Levy said that the final decision on whether to press charges would be made by the Tel Aviv District Attorney's Office, and that police had recently turned the case files over to the office. Normally, the district attorney accepts the police recommendations.

Danny Kesten, chairman of the Israel Basketball Association, and Arye Zeif, chairman of the Sports Betting Board, also attended the meeting at police headquarters.

Zeif reportedly said the investigation, and action by the tax authorities, have dealt a severe blow to illegal betting on professional sports.

Fines for serious traffic offenses going up sharply soon

Jerusalem Post Staff

TRANSPORTATION Minister Yitzhak Levy will sign a measure in the next few days increasing fines for serious traffic violations, as part of the plan to intensify the war against traffic violations.

The increase comes as part of an amendment to the traffic ordinances approved by the Knesset recently. The amendment allows the minister to increase fines for traffic violations to a maximum of NIS 2,000.

According to the new measure, the fines on a number of serious traffic violations will be

- increased by several hundred percent. The new fines are as follows:
- Traveling with a load 25 percent above the level permitted will be increased to NIS 1,500 from NIS 500. A more than 25% overload will result in a court hearing and a 30-day license suspension.
- Running a red light will be increased to NIS 1,000 from NIS 270.
- Talking on a cellular phone in a car without the use of a speaker will carry a NIS 750

- fine, up from NIS 130.
- Driving 20 kph above the speed limit will be NIS 750, up from NIS 270. Those caught driving more than 30 kph over the speed limit will get a 30-day license suspension and a court hearing.
- Driving on the shoulder of a road will carry a NIS 500 fine, up from NIS 190.
- Parking in a spot reserved for disabled drivers will be increased NIS 270 from NIS 165.
- Driving in a car unfit for the road will be NIS 500, up from NIS 270.

'Song of Peace' composer Yair Rosenbloom dies at 52

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

SONGWRITER and composer Yair Rosenbloom, whose "Song of Peace" was sung by prime minister Yitzhak Rabin moments before his assassination, died yesterday of cancer. He was 52.

The song became inextricably linked with Rabin after he was killed on November 4 at a Tel Aviv peace rally. The lyrics were read at his funeral, and Israeli radio and television stations played it over and over again in the following weeks.

Rosenbloom and lyricist Ya'acov Rothblit wrote "Song of Peace" as an anti-war protest. It was denounced by the military as defeatist and banned from Army Radio when it was released in 1969.

With lyrics like "The purest prayer will not bring us back he whose candle was snuffed out," the song tapped into public concern over the mounting casualties in the War of Attrition.

Rosenbloom wrote more than 1,000 songs, including "Halleluya," which won the Eurovision song contest. His compositions were among Israel's most popular music. He presided over the army's entertainment troupes in the 1960s and '70s and helped create the careers of some of the country's top musical entertainers.

Rosenbloom died at his home in Holon. He will be buried today at Kibbutz Ainat, where he was born in 1944. He is survived by a daughter.

Train to run from Ashdod to Gaza Strip

DAVID HARRIS

PLANS to establish a new rail line from Ashdod Port to the Gaza Strip, carrying both passengers and freight, were announced last night by National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon.

This will allow for increased trade between the Palestinian Authority and Israel, and decrease international imports and exports from the Strip, Sharon said.

He added that this will bring added security to both Israelis and Palestinians, as it indicates a willingness for joint venture economic activities.

The decision was made during a meeting last night with representatives of Israel Railways and the Finance Ministry, together with Maj.-Gen. Oren Shabor, the government coordinator in the territories.

Sharon has instructed Shabor to work with the PA to extend the rail route through the Gaza Strip. Earlier this month the

government announced a \$400 million plan to build a railway from Ismailiya to Rafah.

Meridor meets PA Industry & Trade Minister, Page 2

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Criticism of High Court must focus on issues, not personalities

THE Supreme Court is not above public criticism. The public, sections of it, and even individuals, are entitled to criticize any Supreme Court decision.

The Court, sitting as the High Court of Justice, must also take into account the values that are current in society. Its task is not to impose some kind of theoretical justice or stick to abstract principles. It must take into account the public's legitimate feelings. The issues of religious outlook and faith are unquestionably legitimate values which must be respected.

The High Court of Justice must also always remember that the fashioning of the social and moral contents of this country are based on two assumptions: We are a democratic state and a Jewish state.

The juxtaposition of these two value structures was clearly expressed in the Israeli "Bill of Rights," the Basic Law: Human Dignity and Freedom. It was clearly stated there that the pur-

COMMENT
URIEL LYNN

pose of the law is to preserve and advance the values of Israel as a Jewish and democratic state.

Thus, when the religious community criticizes the decisions of the Supreme Court, or charges that its decisions are imbalanced, it is on legitimate ground.

The question is: When do we cross the line into a type of criticism that threatens to undermine the foundations of society and the law?

That happens when the criticism of the court's decisions is not aimed at the substance of the decisions, but at the judges themselves. When the criticism is concentrated on a particular judge or a group of judges and brands him or them as an enemy, it no longer constitutes judicial criticism but a declaration of war.

Indeed, there are many instances in which when you criticize some-

one's decision, you are criticizing the person himself. Sometimes one attributes to him personal characteristics or lack of skills, and the line between criticism of the decision and the person making it is blurred. This may also be legitimate.

What is crucial is the nature of the personal criticism. If we can interpret the personal attack as an act of incitement, even if legally it cannot be construed as a criminal act, we are undermining the foundations of the law.

Regarding judges as personal enemies is not legitimate. It is dangerous to our system of law, which, in the final analysis, is the foundation upon which groups with different points of view are able to live together. There are red lines which must not be breached, and it is vital that the government understand this.

Uriel Lynn, a private lawyer, served as chairman of the Knesset Law Committee in the Twelfth Knesset.

Law deans, Weizman defend Supreme Court

Haredi press continues campaign against Barak

EVELYN GORDON and Itim

FOUR law school deans added their voices yesterday to the barrage of criticism of the haredim's attack on Supreme Court President Aharon Barak.

President Ezer Weizman also commented on the issue. "It is certainly very disturbing that the Supreme Court is being criticized and incited against like this," he said.

"I hope it will calm down and people will finally understand that in a country like ours, there are institutions that must function as they should and not be disturbed," Weizman said.

In a statement released to the press, Profs. Baruch Bracha of Haifa University, Yedidya Stern of Bar-Ilan University, Eliezer Lederman of Tel Aviv University, and Berachyahu Lifshitz of Hebrew University denounced what they termed "the unrestrained and non-substantive attack" against Barak.

"As those who are entrusted

with teaching the law, we know the decisive contribution the Supreme Court and its president have made to molding the fundamental values of the rule of law and the defense of human rights in Israel," they wrote. "This is the reason for our call to utterly reject this attempt to delegitimize the Supreme Court."

"It goes without saying that everyone has a right to disagree with the court's rulings. Substantive debate is one of the hallmarks of democracy, and criticism of a ruling or of a judicial philosophy is legitimate. What is not legitimate is a campaign of incitement, or attempts to intimidate judges."

Bracha, in an interview, added that it would even be legitimate to submit legislation to change the system.

However, he said, the line must be drawn at personal slurs against

a judge. "When you label a judge a 'target' ... or say he's establishing a 'dictatorship' ... that's no longer an argument over an issue, but over a person," he said.

"I hope and assume they don't mean [Barak should be] a physical target," he added. "But what if someone thinks that is what they mean?"

Bracha said he believes the public has a special responsibility to defend judges because they cannot defend themselves.

Judges do not generally issue press statements or give interviews, and therefore they have no way to respond to attacks against them, he said.

He also vehemently rejected the haredim's charge that Barak has been mixing politics in his rulings, and therefore deserves to be treated like any other politician.

"I don't buy this thesis at all," he

said, noting that if everyone who lost a case began charging that the court has an "agenda," the legal system could not function. "If someone rules against you, it's out of prejudice?"

"The court is not a political body; it interprets the law," he added.

"And Barak is a judge. He's not a politician."

The haredi press, however, continued its campaign against Barak and the court.

In an editorial entitled "The dictatorship won't go away," the Degel Hatorah daily *Yated Ne'eman* said: "Through the use of elevated language and an academic style, Aharon Barak has tried to impose his approach, that the Supreme Court is the supreme ruler, that it has the power to overturn any parliamentary or governmental decision, with complete indifference to democratic political decisions or the will of the majority."

Yitzhak Levy names committee to study Rehov Bar-Ilan crisis

Jerusalem Post Staff

TRANSPORTATION Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday named the members of the public committee that is to recommend a policy regarding transportation on Shabbat.

The committee was established following the recent High Court decision on the closing of Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan.

The court decided that the issue could not be decided in isolation and that a study of the whole issue of transportation on Shabbat was needed.

The committee will be headed by Dr. Zvi Tzameret, the director of the Ben-Zvi Institute in Jerusalem.

Tzameret, a veteran educator, was the recipient of last year's Avi-Hai Prize, awarded for the personal example he set in promoting dialogue among Jews with various backgrounds. Since the 1960s, he has worked

on numerous projects to increase understanding among different groups in the country.

Other members of the committee are Prof. Galia Golan, Rabbi Zvi Weinman, Eliahu Hasson, Rabbi Shmuel Jakobovitz, Rabbi She'ar-Yashuv Cohen, Prof. Eliezer Schweid, and Prof. Daniel Sperber.

Levy stressed he did his best to insure that the committee he chose was balanced, so it would be clear to everyone that the object was to arrive at an understanding, and not to impose a decision by a majority vote.

Tzameret said the committee will begin its work at the beginning of next week, after all the relevant material has been gathered from all the parties involved in the issue.

The committee has been asked to present its recommendations within two months.

Inspectors: Kindergarten playgrounds unsafe

ESTHER HECHT

KINDERGARTEN playgrounds from Haifa to Beersheba are unsafe, according to the preliminary findings of Industry and Trade Ministry inspectors in seven cities, from Haifa to Beersheba.

Not one of more than 70 kindergartens in the sample met obligatory standards, especially those related to health and safety, according to Grisha Deitch, the ministry's commissioner of standardization.

Two blatant dangers are inappropriate ground cover and nonstandard distances between fence bars. According to the standard, the ground cover must be sand 30 centimeters deep or fine gravel 20 cm. deep, Deitch said. But in Gordon kindergarten, in Haifa's Neveh Sha'anun quarter, for example, the inspectors found only bare asphalt.

"There's a great difference between a fall on sand and a fall on asphalt," Deitch said. "It could mean the difference between a bruise and a fracture, or even death."

When the distance between bars is nonstandard, a child's hands or feet - or even head - may get stuck.

Local authorities are responsible for implementing and maintaining standards in public kindergartens, and city representatives who accompanied the inspection teams were informed of the findings on the spot, Deitch said. He will submit official reports to the ministry's legal department, which will then take action. Deitch is also the address for citizen's complaints about dangerous playgrounds.

In the next few days, inspectors will return to Beersheba and visit Ramle and Ashkelon.

Egged promises better phone information lines - by the year 2000

BATSHEVA TSUR

THOSE wanting information from Egged on schedules for buses leaving Jerusalem should take heart: Help is on the way - at least by the turn of the century.

"The number of inquiries to Egged's national information center has doubled, to about 10,000 this summer," Egged's Jerusalem spokesman, Uri Ashkenazi, said this week, explaining why it is nearly impossible to reach the center.

Ashkenazi said that persons dialing the Jerusalem number listed in the telephone book for inquiries - 02-5304555 - are automatically transferred to the Tel Aviv national center. There, 16 telephones are manned and another eight lines receive calls and put the caller on hold. "There are simply so many callers, that they cannot cope during the summer," said Ashkenazi.

He admitted that this is also true on Sundays, when a large number of soldiers go back to their bases.

"But it is certainly adequate from Mondays through Thursdays," he said.

If, in desperation, the Jerusalem caller turns to Bezeq's inquiries department for another number, he or she will be referred to 02-5304704. "That is the local municipal information center, which unfortunately has only one line. But they also give information on interurban travel because they realize the problem," said Ashkenazi.

Asked why Egged simply does not add lines, Ashkenazi explained that this is not feasible.

"Anyway, in October, we will move to a temporary building and I don't know what will happen there. But I promise that in the new Egged station being built, it will be different," he said.

The new Egged building, part of the new Jerusalem Central Bus Station whose construction is to begin later this year, "will be ready in three to four years" he said.



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In the surprise corner ad, published on 25.8, an error appeared in the product description. The set of the three mugs are an imitation of Denby mugs, made in China.

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Next Rosh Hashanah

Egypt slams London 'rally of terrorists'

**SALAH NASRAWI
CAIRO**

DESPITE complaints from Egypt's government and some Moslems, a Moslem fundamentalist group in London, will go ahead with a planned rally urging a holy war against the enemies of Islam. The organizer, Omar Bakri Mohammed, a Syrian living in exile in London, said he expects 7,000 Moslem activists from around the world, including the United States, to attend the "Rally for Islamic Revival" sponsored by his group, Al-Muhajiroun ("the Emigrants").

Mohammad denied accusations by Egyptian officials that the meeting, scheduled for September 8, would be a forum to encourage violence or terrorism. "Our goal is to revive Islam and put it back on the right path against the forces of kufr (non-believers)," Mohammad said in a telephone interview from his London office.

"This is a conference which aims at showing all Moslems the way for salvation," added Mohammad, whose group wants to revive the Caliphate that ruled Islam for more than 500 years until the 12th century. However, the conference program suggests it is likely to anger both Arab and non-Arab countries. Flyers advertising the rally say it will discuss "the work to expose, and thereby change corrupt regimes in Moslem countries."

They also say it will address "exposing the campaign of hatred by the terrorist West ... against Islam and sincere Moslems by labeling them as terrorists and extremists."

Dissident figures from various Arab countries have been invited to attend, including Mohammed al-Masari, a Saudi Arabian political activist whom the Saudi government sought unsuccessfully to have deported from England earlier this year. Also invited are leaders of the Palestinian group Hamas, the Islamic Jihad in Egypt, and the Hizbullah in Lebanon.

Taped addresses are to be aired from Osama bin Laden, another exiled Saudi accused by the West of financing extremist causes, and

Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman, an Egyptian imprisoned in the United States after being convicted of a plot to blow up New York City landmarks. Mohammad referred to Abdel-Rahman as "that majestic mountain who calls for 'jihad' (holy war) until Allah's rule is achieved on earth."

Egyptian security officials have complained to the British government about holding the conference in London, and Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa this week referred to the meeting as a "terrorist conference."

Moussa told reporters that Egypt was in contact with Britain about why it would allow such a meeting and added: "Egypt does not understand that, and there are many other countries which cannot understand this position." The Egyptian government, which has faced a four-year revolt by Islamic militants, has frequently complained in the past about European countries and the United States giving safe haven to extremist groups.

The Saudi-owned Arabic daily *Al-Hayat* took the same view in an editorial on Sunday, urging the British government to ban the rally. "It is double standard that governments who decry terrorism allow such people to meet on their territories," said the London-based newspaper, which is one of the Arab world's most respected publications.

An official at the British Embassy in Cairo said that there are 500,000 Moslems living in Britain and they don't need government permission to hold a rally. Asked about Egyptian contacts with Britain over the conference, he said Egyptian and British officials often have contacts about security issues but characterized them as private matters.

Several Islamic groups also have criticized the meeting and said they would not attend, including the Moslem Brotherhood, Egypt's largest fundamentalist group. Alcram al-Hakim, a London-based official of the Supreme Council for the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, complained the conference would give the wrong picture of Islam. (AP)

Abu Dis poses a challenge for eastern Jerusalemites and Jordan

**BACKGROUND
PINHAS INBARI**

IT appears the issue of Jerusalem can no longer wait until the beginning of the final status negotiations as all parties involved already have started to create facts on the ground.

It may seem the rivalry is simple - Israel on one side, Arabs on the other. But more than two competitors are in the race.

The Palestinian Authority is in a struggle with the local leadership, as well as with Jordan. Even in Israel there are at least two views on the capital's future.

In the past couple of weeks, there has been a Palestinian move to relocate PA institutions from eastern Jerusalem to Abu Dis. Under Israeli pressure, the PA moved the office of the Palestinian Geography Center's

maps department to Abu Dis. This department keeps an eye on settlement activity in the West Bank, and in the Jerusalem area from the east of the city to Abu Dis. This village east of Jerusalem is not a random choice.

In the Yossi Beilin-Abu Mazen understandings, Abu Dis was suggested as the site of the Palestinian government.

The PA has based its activities to strengthen its status in Abu Dis on this understanding with Beilin - even though former prime minister Shimon Peres did not endorse this understanding.

Neither is Prime Minister Binjamin Netanyahu happy with the goings on in Abu Dis. Last week, he told the foreign media that Abu Dis is too close to the

capital and affects developments there. And last week the IDF raided Palestinian security offices in Abu Dis.

Netanyahu is not alone in rejecting the Abu Dis idea. Jordan, although it has made no comment, is far from happy with this development. Of all possible alternatives for Palestinian government locations, Abu Dis is the worst for Jordan since it bisects the route from Amman to Jerusalem.

Reports of creating a "safe passage" from Abu Dis to Al-Aksa Mosque were especially alarming to Jordan since this would give Arafat de facto control of the holy

site, booting out Jordanian influence.

There is good reason to conclude that Beilin's readiness to accept PA authority in Abu Dis spurred Jordan's decision to strengthen its relations with the Likud at the expense of Labor, despite the fact that Peres did not support the idea.

Not just Jordan, but pivotal Palestinian leaders in eastern Jerusalem also oppose the movement of Palestinian institutions from the city to Abu Dis. PA Council member Hattam Abdel Khader said Jerusalem's Palestinian residents will fill the gap caused by the PA's relocation by setting up other institutions in Jerusalem that are not linked with the PA.

This is not intended to outwit Netanyahu; it is not Arafat promising Israel one thing while telling his Fatah guys to do the opposite. Arafat is sincere in his desire to make Abu Dis his stronghold, at the expense of the old Jerusalem leadership, of which Khader is an integral part.

These leaders have reason to believe that the Abu Dis alternative will undermine Orient House - at least emptying this entity of its political content.

This of course may offer Netanyahu a real dilemma - whether to prefer the continuation of Orient House as the stronghold of the old east Jerusalem Palestinian leadership or exchange it for a new Arafat stronghold in Abu Dis.

Election-year US takes back seat on Middle East

**ANALYSIS
PATRICK WORSNIP**

WITH its presidential elections looming, the US has slumped back into a subsidiary role in Middle East peacemaking, willing to help, but only if the parties themselves take the lead, US analysts say.

The US dream of clinching a comprehensive Middle East peace - one that would give Israel treaties with Syria and Lebanon to add to those with Egypt, Jordan and the Palestinians - during this administration has faded.

Already looking shaky under the Labor government, that prospect virtually vanished in American eyes with the election of Prime Minister Binjamin Netanyahu.

"For a moment it looked as though the United States might take the lead," said Yahya Sadowski, a Middle East analyst at the Brookings Institution in Washington. "Now it appears they are going to remain loyal to the old maxim of 'never to be more forward than the principals themselves.'"

Washington's role as the key intermediary was undermined again last week when Israel asked the US ambassador in Tel Aviv to forward a message to Syria.

But with the US presidential vote less than 11 weeks away, no one in Washington has the political capital to invest in any role much greater than message-carrier, certainly not one that involves any diplomatic sparring with Jerusalem.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who has led the US Middle East peace effort for the past three and a half years, has paid one brief visit - in June - since Netanyahu was elected. Aides say he has no plans to return to the area before a regional economic summit scheduled in Cairo this November.

Christopher is widely expected to retire at the end of this administration, even if US President Bill Clinton is reelected, and most analysts say any new push in the Middle East will have to await his successor.

Much of the US activity in the Middle East since Netanyahu was

elected has been devoted not to advancing the peace process but to keeping it from going backwards.

The US has urged the Arabs not to give up on Israel and has sought to keep Palestinian self-rule going in the West Bank and Gaza by ensuring a continued flow of aid to the Palestinian Authority.

In private, US officials make clear their considerable differences with Netanyahu's policies, especially his apparent retreat from the "land for peace" formula that Labor has espoused.

The US administration has given no sign that it thinks the proposal for a "Lebanon-style" deal with Syria, which would remove the Hizbullah threat to Israel from south Lebanon before there are any negotiations on the Golan Heights, is going to work.

"It is the US view that they will have to at some point discuss the disposition of the Golan Heights. I mean, I don't think there's any question about that," State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said. Syria has strongly rejected the Lebanon-first idea. It also rejected Israel's latest peace talks offer.

The weakness of Washington's position has been shown by the reluctance of US leaders to publicly insist on retaining "land-for-peace," a phrase diplomatically avoided by Christopher during his last visit to Israel.

Analysts say Washington is in a similarly weak situation on the question of settlements in the territories when the Netanyahu government moved to unblock the restrictions imposed by Labor.

Washington officially calls the settlements "unhelpful" and "complicating," but Sadowski doubts the US would be prepared to do anything concrete.

"We can stand there and lecture about settlements being unhelpful, but that will be about as effective as lecturing the Bosnian Serbs," he said.

The writer is chief diplomatic correspondent for Reuter.



A Lebanese policeman inspects identity cards at a polling station in the northern port of Tripoli Sunday in the second round of parliamentary elections. There are 580,000 voters eligible to choose 28 members of the 128-member parliament. (Reuters)

Iraq accuses Iran of involvement in Kurdish fighting

THE Iraqi government accused rival Iran of sending troops into Iraq and taking part in the fighting between rival Kurdish factions in northeastern Iraq, the state-run news agency reported.

Iraq's Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said Iranian Revolutionary Guards crossed into his country and were firing heavy artillery and shelling towns and villages in the northeast.

Aziz called it "flagrant aggression by the Iranian regime," in a statement carried by the Iraqi News Agency. "This aggression shows that the Iranian regime's

futile expansionist dreams have not ended and that there are no limits to the aggressive Iranian conduct against Iraq and its people," said Aziz.

Iranian forces have previously crossed into northern Iraq in pursuit of their own Kurdish rebels who are as antagonistic toward their government as the Iraqi Kurds are toward their own.

But in Iran, state-run radio said the government was not responsible for the fighting between the Kurdish groups, and blamed the turmoil on Iraq's inability to maintain order. "What is presently tak-

Sudanese army denies executions in plot

THE spokesman for Sudan's Army, Gen. Mohammed Sanousi Ahmed, this week denied opposition allegations that 11 army officers were executed for plotting against the government.

Mohammed Mutassim Hakim, spokesman for the opposition Democratic Unionist Party, said in an earlier statement that officers were executed by firing squad last week.

Hakim said they were accused of participating in a recent coup attempt against the government of Sudanese President Omar el-Bashir.

Sudan has never acknowledged there was a coup attempt, saying instead that it arrested a number of military officers and civilians in connection with a plot to blow up installations in Port Sudan and hurt the country's ability to export and import goods.

Ahmed told the official Sudan News Agency that 25 people are under detention for the plot, including 17 from the military, and that they were still being interrogated.

"A large number of those summoned for interrogation have been released after the completion of questioning," Ahmed said. He gave no specific figure.

Hakim had said that more than

100 members of the military and civilians were detained, and accused the government of torturing them.

Ahmed also said there was evidence of "foreign assistance" in the plot, but did not name specific nations. Sheikh Hassan Turabi, Sudan's leading Islamic figure and speaker of the Parliament, has accused Eritrea and Uganda of being behind the recent Port Sudan plot "with the assistance of some traitors," Sudanese newspapers reported.

Eritrea and Uganda have broken diplomatic relations with Sudan. Both accuse Sudan's Islamic government of supporting rebels operating in their countries.

Sudan, in turn, has accused them of helping southern Sudanese militants who have been fighting since 1983 for more autonomy for the south's Christians and animists.

Also this week, a governor in eastern Sudan was quoted by the government daily *Al-Engaz Al-Wazani* as saying security forces were on alert to counter incursions by rebels based in Eritrea.

Abdul-Gasim Mohammed Ibrahim, the governor of Kassala state, said the alert was necessary "to face any threats that might befall the homeland." (AP)

Saudi woman pardoned moments before beheading

MOMENTS before she was to be beheaded for her murder conviction, a weeping Saudi woman was pardoned by the victim's family, a newspaper said this week.

As the executioner cleaned his sword for his second and last job of the day, Najah al-Kariss, waiting in a prison truck for her turn on the execution block, asked to speak to the father of the man she had killed, the *Al-Eqtisadiyah* daily reported.

Weeping and begging for her life, she pleaded to Dakheel al-Luhaybi for forgiveness, the only way she could avoid execution.

After consulting with other family members, al-Luhaybi agreed to pardon her. Under the Islamic laws of Saudi Arabia, this means that al-Kariss is a free woman. (AP)

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Africa-Israel, Israel Chemicals lead shares up

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

ROBERT DANIEL



STOCKS rose, led by Africa-Israel Investments Ltd., which jumped the 10 percent daily limit, and Israel Chemicals Ltd., which reported profits.

The advances were offset by drops at two top holding companies, Israel Corp. and Koor Industries Ltd.

"The chemical companies are doing well despite the appreciation of the shekel" against the US dollar, said Doron Tsur, head of research at Sahar Securities.

The Two-Sided Index rose 0.4% to 175.08, preliminary figures showed.

The Maof Index climbed 0.62% to 186.12. The most active issue was Koor Industries, down 1% on NIS 3.3 million of shares traded.

Monday Israel Chemicals reported a second-quarter profit of NIS 79.5m. against a year-ago loss. The shares rose 1.75 yesterday.

A stronger shekel hurts exporters like Israel's chemical companies.

Israel Chemicals Ltd., which reported profits. The shekel strengthened to 3.137 today from 3.141 yesterday.

"The market is used to the idea that the dollar is a very weak currency and the shekel is king."

Tsur said. "Who needs dollars anyway?"

Africa-Israel shares rose on a report two investors, Eitan Wertheimer and Moti Zisser, are planning to boost their stakes in the property developer.

They oppose a plan by Bank Leumi to spin off Migdal Insurance. Africa-Israel also has an interest in Migdal.

Africa-Israel is scheduled to report earnings tomorrow. Israel Corp. shares dropped 5.75%, even as the holding company reported second-quarter profit of NIS 11.2m. against a loss of NIS 5.7m.

Erion Electronic Industries Ltd. jumped 5% as investors matched the arbitrage gap created when the shares in New York rose 7/16 to 10 5/16 Monday.

(Bloomberg)

Eurobourses end mixed; London shares recover

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - European bourses closed mixed yesterday with London clawing back most of the day's losses despite an unsteady start on Wall Street, hit by inflation worries.

The dollar weakened during the day with many dealers sidelined because of uncertainty over Tokyo's monetary direction ahead of the important Japanese Tankan economic survey out today. But it recovered at the close of trade.

Stocks in London started the week badly after a three-day weekend, slipping 0.3 percent, but bargain-hunters later moved in and the FTSE index recovered most of the lost ground to end only just in negative ground.

Yesterday's patchy showing in London followed a string of records last week, culminating in Friday's trading high of 3,911, fueled by a wave of European interest rate cuts. The London bourse drew little help from the unsettled morning on Wall Street, which slipped in and out of positive ground after a stronger-than-expected August consumer confidence report fueled inflation fears, pulling US Treasuries back from their early peaks.

Shortly after the report appeared showing the confidence index rising to 109.4 in August from a revised 107.0 in July, Wall Street relinquished virtually all its morning gains.

"Treasuries remain very sensitive to any indication of a strong economy and we're still in that summer doldrum period of light trading," said Alan Ackerman, market strategist at Fehnestock & Co. "Consequently, stocks and bonds are both subject to rapid swings."

Frankfurt was the one bright spot in Europe. Floor trading

ended up 0.25 percent and the computerized IBIS index climbed nearly 0.4%, given a push by the performance of chemical shares. "The market is trading 100% on fundamentals at the moment as interest rate fantasy disappears, it's all company news," said one trader.

French shares ended slightly down amid growing unease about a difficult autumn for the government, which also weighed on the franc, dealers said.

Bond prices were weaker and the franc was quoted at 3.4210 per mark for the first time since August 13 as worries about the government's autumn budget and a weak US currency lifted the mark and squeezed French investments.

The dollar, which dropped sharply on Monday because of jitters over the Japanese Tankan survey, weakened further in quiet trading but regained losses to end the day close to Monday's levels.

"Besides the Tankan, there's nothing really until the US jobs numbers next week," said a UK bank corporate dealer. "There is still the summer malaise hanging over the market."

Foreign exchange markets report the Tankan report as an important indication of the country's future monetary policy direction. If it points to weakness in the economy, the report will help the dollar regain some lost ground as speculation of a near-term rise in Japanese interest rates will evaporate.

The Japanese discount rate is currently at a record low of 0.5 percent.

The dollar was also pressured by the mark's strength against European currencies amid renewed concerns over Europe's economic and monetary union (EMU) timetable.

Consumer data boosts Dow

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Stock prices ended up yesterday as Wall Street put a positive spin on the leap in consumer confidence to a six-year high in August, setting aside fears that the Federal Reserve may raise interest rates to slow growth.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average ended up 17.38 points at 5,711.27. In the broader market, advancing issues beat declines 13-8 on moderate volume of 308 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table with columns: MARK, STERLING, YEN, SF, FF. Rows include STERLING, YEN, SF, FF with corresponding exchange rates.

TEL AVIV STOCKS

Large table of stock prices categorized into Multi-sided trading and Two-sided trading. Includes sub-sections for Commercial Banks, Industrials, Mortgage Banks & Finance, Financial Institutions, Insurance, Trade & Services, Property, Building & Agriculture, Oil Exploration, and Parallel List.

Key Representative Rates

Table showing US dollar (NIS 3.1370 -0.12%), Sterling (NIS 4.8914 +0.09%), and Mark (NIS 2.1266 +0.10%).

NEW YORK STOCK MARKETS

New York market indexes

Table of New York market indexes including DJ Industrial, DJ Transport, DJ Composite, NYSE, NASDAQ, and NYSE-100.

Other stock market indexes

Table of other stock market indexes including NYSE 100, Tokyo Nikkei average, Hong Kong Hang Seng index, and Israeli stocks in NY.

Israeli stocks in NY

Table of Israeli stocks in NY including AMEX, NYSE, and various company symbols like AEL, AELB, AELC.

INFLATION MARKETS

Dollar crossrates (US)

Table of dollar crossrates for various currencies like Pound, Deutsche, Franc, Yen, etc.

Labor rates

Table of labor rates for different periods like 3 months, 6 months, 12 months.

Foreign financial data courtesy of CommStock Trading Ltd.

Advertisement for CommStock Trading Ltd. offering Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds.

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Table of international stock prices for various countries like New York, London, Frankfurt, etc.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

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INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various companies and markets.

CommStock Trading Ltd. (Data 27-AUG-96)

CommStock Trading Ltd. (Data 27-AUG-96)

SPORTS

Sampras, Seles advance easily

NEW YORK (AP) - Led by defending men's champion Pete Sampras, Olympic gold medalist Lindsay Davenport and No. 2 Monica Seles, a parade of seeded players moved into the second round of the US Open yesterday.

Third-seeded Thomas Muster of Austria gained a second-round berth, downing Argentina's Javier Frana 6-1, 7-6(7-2), 6-2. Davenport, who followed up her gold-medal performance at the Atlanta Games with a tournament title in Los Angeles, where she upset Steffi Graf, found little resistance from Adriana Serra-Zanetti. Davenport took only 46 minutes to down her Italian opponent 6-2, 6-1.

Mariaan de Swardt outlasted Dominique van Roost of Belgium 1-6, 6-2, 7-6(7-4). In early men's play, Alex Corretja of Spain defeated Zimbabwe's Byron Black 7-6(8-6), 3-6, 6-2, 6-2; Petr Korda of the Czech Republic stopped American David Caldwell 6-3, 3-6, 6-3, 7-5; and Jiri Novak of the Czech Republic downed Australian Ben Ellwood 6-2, 6-4, 6-3.



THE PRIDE OF ISRAEL - Deputy Minister of Education Moshe Peled (l) and Yosef Lotenberg, spokesman for the Organization of Disabled IDF Veterans, greet one of the Israeli Paralympians who returned from Atlanta yesterday.

Taiba falls at first hurdle

Hapoel Taiba's baptism of fire in the National League ended in a disappointing 3-1 defeat last night for the hundreds of fans who had traveled to see their side play Ironi Rishon LeZion in its debut match in the top flight.

and it doesn't help our morale before this important game," Klinger said. Gavri Levy, deputy chairman of the Israel Football Association, suggested that the affair was par for the course in a country where politicians and people in public office were regularly accused of wrongdoing, often without the matter proceeding to trial.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Ball resigns as Manchester City manager Former England midfielder Alan Ball resigned as manager of first division side Manchester City on Monday night, the club said.

Ball, appointed in July 1995, was unable to prevent City being relegated from the premier league last season and his record read 13 wins, 14 draws and 22 losses in 49 games. They have lost two of their three matches so far this season.

McGrath left out of Ireland World Cup squad Ireland's most experienced player, defender Paul McGrath, was left out of the national squad for the first time in 11 years yesterday when new manager Mick McCarthy named his side to face Liechtenstein in a World Cup qualifier.

The 36-year-old Aston Villa player won the last of his Irish record of 82 international caps against the Czech Republic in Prague in April.

Gooch to play another season for Essex Graham Gooch, the 43-year-old former England captain, is to continue playing county cricket for at least another season, his club Essex announced yesterday.

Opener Gooch's decision comes towards the end of a season in which he has underlined his consistency by becoming the leading scorer in Essex's history, beating Keith Fletcher's aggregate of 29,434.

Waqar Younis signs with Glamorgan Pakistan fast-bowler Waqar Younis signed to play county cricket for Glamorgan yesterday on a two-year contract reported to be worth £200,000.

Waqar will be having his second spell on the county circuit, having taken 232 wickets in three seasons for Surrey - 1990, 1991 and 1993 - before moderate back problems interrupted his career.

Gooden 'Green abused alcohol'

DWIGHT Gooden has been waiting for a chance to lash out at his former Mets manager, and the time appeared right Monday night in Seattle after Dallas Green was fired by New York.

"Dallas' problems came from alcohol," Gooden said before the Yankees game against the Mariners. "Some of the things he said about me... he needs to look in the mirror and check himself first."

Gooden berated Green's harsh reaction to his 1994 suspension because of Gooden's drug problems. Green offered no sympathy, instead calling drug addiction a selfish act that only lets teammates down.

When Gooden left the Mets in 1994, he promised that as long as Green remained at Shea, there was no chance of a reconciliation. But with Green gone, Gooden is leaving the door open for a return to Shea. "If things don't work out here with the Yankees, then I could see myself going back to the Mets someday. Definitely, now that he's gone."

CRICKET TEST AVERAGES

Table with columns for PAKISTAN and ENGLAND, listing batting and bowling averages for various players like Inzamam-ul-Haq, Saad Amar, Rashid Latif, and Alec Stewart, John Crawley, etc.

Tribe's Nagy three-hits Tigers

DETROIT (AP) - Jim Thome hit a tiebreaking homer in the ninth and Charles Nagy pitched a three-hitter for his first win in six starts as the Cleveland Indians beat the Detroit Tigers 2-1 Monday night.

Thome's 29th homer came with one out and broke a 1-1 tie as the Indians stayed perfect this season against Detroit. Travis Fryman homered for the Tigers, who are 0-10 against the Indians.

Nagy (13-4) won for the first time since July 25. He was 0-1 with four no-decisions in his previous five starts. Felipe Lira (6-11) allowed just four hits but remained winless since July 7.

Orlans 12, Athletics 11 (10) Baltimore's Cal Ripken drew a bases-loaded walk off Mark Acre in the bottom of the 10th, capping the final rally in a game of comebacks.

Randy Myers (3-3). Earlier, a wild throw by Bordick enabled Baltimore to score seven unearned runs in the third inning for an 8-3 lead. Oakland fought back and went ahead 10-8 on the second homer of the game by rookie Tony Batista, a two-run shot in the eighth.

Norm Charlton got the final two outs for his 14th save. NATIONAL LEAGUE Giants 1, Phillies 0 William VanLandingham allowed two hits over eight innings, retiring 17 consecutive batters during one stretch, for host San Francisco.

Acres 0-2 hit Chris Hoiles with a pitch but got the next two batters out. Brady Anderson then hit a triple to tie the score, and Acre issued two intentional walks to load the bases. Ripken then ducked a high 3-1 pitch, forcing in the winning run.

Wakefield (11-11) struck out five and walked one in his fifth complete game. The knuckleballer won for the sixth time in eight decisions. Jim Edmonds homered in the sixth inning, just beyond O'Leary's reach in left field.

Philadelphia's Curt Schilling (6-7) was overpowering following Glenallen Hill's RBI single in the first, allowing five hits over seven innings. Cardinals 3, Astros 2 Willie McGee hit a two-run homer and the visiting St. Louis Cardinals tightened the NL Central race with a win over Houston in a game delayed 10 minutes when a fan fell onto the field.

Acres (0-2) hit Chris Hoiles with a pitch but got the next two batters out. Brady Anderson then hit a triple to tie the score, and Acre issued two intentional walks to load the bases. Ripken then ducked a high 3-1 pitch, forcing in the winning run.

Yankees starter Jimmy Key was hit in the left elbow by a line drive in the first inning. He left the game and was taken to a hospital for X-rays. Bumher, who struck out in his previous three at-bats, singled off Dave

Table for AMERICAN LEAGUE East Division, listing teams like New York, Baltimore, Boston, Toronto, Detroit with W, L, Pct, GB.

Table for AMERICAN LEAGUE Central Division, listing teams like Cleveland, Chicago, Minnesota, Milwaukee, Kansas City with W, L, Pct, GB.

Table for NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division, listing teams like Atlanta, Montreal, Florida, New York, Philadelphia with W, L, Pct, GB.

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